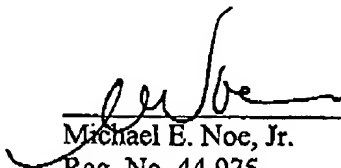


REMARKS

Applicant certainly appreciates the allowance of Claim 6 and the suggestion offered by the Examiner to overcome the objection to Claim 13. Accordingly, independent Claim 9 was rewritten with the language of canceled Claim 13. Thus, Claims 9, 11, 12, and 14 are now allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. No fee for an extension of time or other fees are believed to be required. However, in the event that one or more fees are required, please charge them to Hitachi Global Storage Technologies' Deposit Account Number 50-2587.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael E. Noc, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,975
BRACEWELL & GIULIANI, LLP
P.O. Box 61389
Houston, Texas 77208-1389
(512) 542-2135

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS